

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for sharing media data between application programs operating on at least one computer system, the computer system having a display and a data storage device, said method comprising:

(a) storing, by a first application program, one or more media content files in the data storage device;

(b) accessing, by a second application program, a data communication file provided by the first application program, the data communication file having a predetermined format known by the second application program, the first application program utilizing media information about one or more media content files in a proprietary format, and the data communication file being derived from the media information such that data internal to the data communication file is acquired from the media information;

(c) producing, by the second application program, a user interface on the display using data internal to the data communication file;

(d) receiving a user selection with respect to the user interface produced on the display;

(e) identifying a media content file associated with the user selection; and

(f) playing or displaying, within the second application program on the computer system, media content from the media content file identified by the user selection to the second application program,

wherein the data within the data communication file includes at least media item properties for media items and includes links to storage locations for media content files containing media content for the media items.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data within the data communication file includes a link to the media content file.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the associated media content file is thereafter useable by the second application program.
4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said playing or displaying (f) comprises presenting the media content file at the computer system.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface includes at least a menu of media items determined from data acquired from the data communication file provided by the first application program.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication file is a markup language document.
10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the markup language document is an XML document.
11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said producing (c), said receiving (d), said identifying (e) and said playing or displaying (f) are each able to be performed regardless of whether the first application program is being executed by the computer system.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said first application program is a music manager and player, and wherein said second application program is an image or video manager and viewer.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for sharing media data between computer programs operating on at least one computer system, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for accessing, by a second program, a data communication file, the data communication file having a predetermined format known by the second application program, the data communication file being automatically produced from information about one or more media content files obtained from database data in a propriety format provided by a first program;

computer program code for producing a user interface using data from the data communication file;

computer program code for receiving a user selection with respect to the user interface;

computer program code for identifying the media content file associated with the user selection; and

computer program code for playing or displaying media content from the media content file identified by the user selection to the second program,

wherein the data within the data communication file includes at least media item properties for media items and includes links to storage locations for media content files containing media content for the media items.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15,
wherein the data within the data communication file includes links to the one or more media content files, and
wherein the media content file is stored by the first program, and thereafter the media content file is useable by the second program.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the user interface includes at least a list of media items determined from data acquired from the data communication file provided by the first program.
19. (Original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the data communication file is a markup language document.
20. (Original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the markup language document is an XML document.
21. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein data within the data communication file pertains to media items managed by the first program.
22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said computer program code for producing, said computer program code for receiving, said computer program code for identifying and said computer program code for playing or displaying are part of the second program and are each able to be performed regardless of whether the first program is being executed by the computer system.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said first program is a music manager and player, and wherein said second program is an image or video manager and viewer, and wherein the data communication file is stored by any of a first program, a second program or a third program.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the first program executes on a first computer system, the second program executes on a second computer system.

26. (Original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the data communication file is stored on the first computer system, the second computer system, or another computer system.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer system for sharing media data between application programs operating thereon, said computer system comprising:

a first application program that manages a first media database that contains at least media information, in a proprietary format, pertaining to media items, said first application further produces a data communication file that includes at least a portion of the media information of the first media database; and

a data storage device that stores the data communication file and a media content file for each of a plurality of media items;

wherein the data communication file has a predetermined format known by a second application program,

wherein the second application program presenting a user interface using at least a portion of the media information acquired from the data communication file,

wherein the first application program and the second application program operate on the same computer system, and

wherein the data within the data communication file includes at least media item properties for media items and includes links to storage locations for media content files containing media content for the media items.

28. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein said second application program receives a user selection with respect to the user interface, thereby selecting at least one media item.

29. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein said second application program plays or displays media content from the media content file for the selected media item.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein said second application program makes use of the media information from the data communication file or media content from the media content file for the selected media item.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein the data communication file is a markup language document.

32. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 31, wherein the markup language document is an XML document.

33. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein the user interface includes at least a list of certain of the media items affiliated with the first media database.

34. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 33, wherein the list is a menu.

35. (Original) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein said data storage device further stores data forming the first media database.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 27,
wherein said second application program makes use of the media information from the data communication file or media content from the media content file for the selected media item,
wherein said second application program receives a user selection with respect to the user interface, thereby selecting at least one media item, and
wherein said first application program updates the data communication file whenever the first media database is updated.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein said first application program updates the data communication file when the first media database is changed.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 27, wherein said first application program updates the data communication file when a user interface window associated with the first application program is context switched into a foreground position.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first application program and the second application program operate on the same computer.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first application program includes at least a media management application.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data communication file is automatically produced by the first application program.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 41, wherein the first application program automatically updates the data communication file when the media information utilized by the first application program changes.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 42, wherein a delay timer is used to regulate the frequency at which updates to the data communication file occur.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method comprises:

determining whether the media information about the one or more media content files in the data communication file has changed at the first application program;

setting an update flag to signal the first application program that the data communication file should be updated; and

limiting the frequency at which updates to the data communication file occur.

45. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the limiting uses a delay timer limiting the frequency at which updates to the data communication file occur.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for determining whether the media information in the data communication file about the one or more media content files has changed at the first application program;

computer program code for updating the data communication file if determined that the media information about the one or more media content files has changed at the first application program; and

computer program code for limiting the frequency at which updates to the data communication file occur.